

# Mark Gordon (politician)

**Mark Gordon** (born March 14, 1957) is an American politician serving since 2019 as the 33rd governor of Wyoming. A member of the Republican Party, he previously served as state treasurer; he was appointed to that position by then-Governor Matt Mead on October 26, 2012, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Joseph Meyer.

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## Background

Gordon was born in New York City, New York, the son of Catherine (Andrews) and Crawford Gordon,<sup>[1]</sup> ranchers from Kaycee<sup>[2]</sup> in Johnson County, located in northern Wyoming. Reared on the Gordon Ranch, Gordon is still affiliated with the 48 Ranch Partnership in Kaycee.

He graduated from St. Paul's School, an Episcopalian boarding school in Concord, New Hampshire, and Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont, where he met his first wife, the former Sarah Hildreth Gilmore. The couple married on March 7, 1981, in the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield, Massachusetts, where her parents resided.

After graduating from college in 1979, he returned to Wyoming and worked on his family ranch before starting his own operation. Mark ran several successful businesses in Buffalo and Sheridan including two operations focused on outdoor recreation and tourism. He later worked in the oil and gas industry. In 1993,

### Mark Gordon



#### 33rd Governor of Wyoming

#### Incumbent

#### Assumed office

January 7, 2019

**Preceded by** Matt Mead

#### 29th Treasurer of Wyoming

#### In office

November 1, 2012 – January 7, 2019

**Governor** Matt Mead

**Preceded by** Joseph Meyer

**Succeeded by** Curt Meier

#### Personal details

**Born** March 14, 1957  
New York City, New York, U.S.

**Political party** Republican

**Spouse(s)** Sarah Hildreth Gilmore (m. 1981; died 1993)  
Jennie Muir (m. 2000)

**Children** 4

**Residence** Governor's Mansion

Gordon's first wife died in an automobile accident.<sup>[3]</sup> After his wife was killed he focused on raising his two daughters who were four and two years old at the time.

<b>Education</b>	<u>Middlebury College</u>
	(BA)

Gordon met his current wife, the former Jennie Muir Young, in 1998 and they were married in 2000. Together they own the Merlin Ranch east of Buffalo, also in Johnson County, Wyoming. In 2009, their ranch received the Society for Range Management Wyoming Section "Excellence in Rangeland Stewardship" award.<sup>[4]</sup> They have four grown children: two sons and two daughters.

Gordon has been volunteering and serving in leadership positions for important Wyoming causes for nearly forty years. He is currently on the boards of Volunteers of America Northern Rockies, Ucross Foundation and Willow Park Reservoir Company. He was previously on the Johnson County School Board, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Wyoming Stock Growers Tax Committee, Wyoming Environmental Quality Council, Wyoming Council for the Humanities, Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center, Powder River Conservation District, Johnson County Republican Party and the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture Sheridan Research and Extension Center Advisory Board.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Congressional run

In 2008, Gordon was an unsuccessful candidate in the Republican primary for the United States House of Representatives for Wyoming's at-large congressional district seat held by Cynthia Lummis, also a former state treasurer and the wife of a Democratic former state representative, Alvin Wiederspahn.<sup>[6]</sup> Former U.S. senator Alan K. Simpson of Cody, considered a moderate Republican, defended Gordon's candidacy though he stopped short of an outright endorsement because he is also friendly with Lummis. Nevertheless, former U.S. senator Malcolm Wallop did endorse Gordon as did the late Joseph B. Meyer, who was serving as state treasurer at the time.<sup>[7]</sup>

In the primary, Gordon garnered the endorsements of the Wyoming's two most prominent statewide newspapers: *The Casper Star-Tribune*<sup>[8]</sup> and the *Wyoming Tribune Eagle*.<sup>[9]</sup> Though polls and the financial advantage rested with Gordon in the primary campaign, he nevertheless lost the party nomination to Lummis.<sup>[10]</sup>

## State treasurer

Mead said that his selection of Gordon as the state treasurer over two other candidates proposed by the Wyoming Republican State Central Committee was based on Gordon's financial background and long-term commitment to the state. The treasurer manages the state's \$15 billion in investments. Severance taxes on energy production are particularly important to the state budget.<sup>[6][11]</sup>

Gordon was sworn in as treasurer on November 1, 2012, by Wyoming Supreme Court Justice William Hill.<sup>[11][12]</sup>

Gordon was elected to a full term as treasurer in the 2014 Republican primary election.<sup>[11]</sup>

Under Gordon's leadership, Wyoming's portfolio grew from \$15 billion to nearly \$21 billion.<sup>[13]</sup> Nationally, Mark was elected to serve as Western Regional Vice President of the National Association of State Treasurers. He has earned recognition three years running for his leadership and expertise.<sup>[5]</sup> The

Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute named him one of the "Top 100 Most Significant and Impactful Asset Owners and Public Executives." <sup>[14]</sup> In 2016, under Gordon's leadership, Wyoming's portfolio was ranked 3rd in the world for transparency by the Peterson Institute for International Economics.<sup>[15]</sup>

As state treasurer, Gordon had success modernizing and professionalizing the office of state treasurer. Working with voters and the Wyoming Legislature, Gordon helped craft an amendment to Wyoming's Constitution which would allow the Legislature to designate certain funds of the State to be invested in stocks as well as bonds. The amendment passed in 2016.<sup>[16]</sup>

## Governor of Wyoming

### Election

Gordon declined to run for Cynthia Lummis's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2016, the same seat he ran for in 2008, and instead ran for governor of Wyoming in 2018. He won the Republican primary on August 21, 2018 and then won the general election on November 6, 2018, defeating Democratic state representative Mary Throne.<sup>[17]</sup> Gordon was inaugurated on January 7, 2019.

### Tenure

Gordon was sworn in on January 7, 2019.

## Electoral history

Wyoming Congressional At-Large District Republican Primary Election, 2008			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	<b>Cynthia Lummis</b>	33,149	46.24
Republican	Mark Gordon	26,827	37.42
Republican	Bill Winney	8,537	11.91
Republican	Michael Holland	3,171	4.42

Wyoming Treasurer Republican Primary Election, 2014			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	<b>Mark Gordon (inc.)</b>	75,095	88.09
Republican	Ron Redo	9,945	11.67
Republican	Write-ins	206	0.24

Wyoming Treasurer Election, 2014			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	<b>Mark Gordon (inc.)</b>	138,831	99.10
Write-ins	Write-ins	1,262	0.90



Governor Gordon in 2019.

## References

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## External links

- Wyoming State Treasurer's Office (<http://treasurer.state.wy.us/>)

Political offices		
Preceded by <b>Joseph Meyer</b>	<b>Treasurer of Wyoming</b> 2012–2019	Succeeded by <b>Curt Meier</b>
Preceded by <b>Matt Mead</b>	<b>Governor of Wyoming</b> 2019–present	<b>Incumbent</b>
Party political offices		
Preceded by <b>Matt Mead</b>	<b>Republican nominee for Governor of Wyoming</b> 2018	<b>Most recent</b>
U.S. order of precedence (ceremonial)		
Preceded by <b>Mike Pence</b> <i>as Vice President</i>	<b>Order of Precedence of the United States</b> Within Wyoming	Succeeded by <b>Mayor of city</b> in which event is held
		Succeeded by <b>Otherwise Nancy Pelosi</b> <i>as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives</i>
Preceded by <b>Brad Little</b> <i>as Governor of Idaho</i>	<b>Order of Precedence of the United States</b> Outside Wyoming	Succeeded by <b>Gary Herbert</b> <i>as Governor of Utah</i>

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